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TELEGRAM

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ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /046 W

P 121757Z AUG 70
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8145

C I O N F I D E N T I A L: MONTEVIDEO 1700

EXDIS.

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING - CALL BY FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 1693
(B) MONTEVIDEO 1697

MODIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;
transferred to O/FADRC

Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC
with additional access
controlled by S/S

Cat. C - Caption and custody
retained by S/S

Reviewed by:

Date: 17 Dec 1956

1. FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE PEIRANO FACIO CALLED ON ME AT EMBASSY TODAY (AUG 12) TO EXPRESS HIS PERSONAL CONDOLENCES OVER MITRIONE TRAGEDY AND TO REVIEW CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS.

2. HE SPOKE MOVINGLY OF DEEP SENSE OF SORROW AND GRIEF THAT ALL DECENT URUGUAYANS FELT WITH DAN'S MURDER AND SAID YESTERDAY-AT AIRPORT WHEN HE SAW THE WHOLE MITRIONE FAMILY ASSEMBLED, HIS OWN GRIEF WAS INDESCRIBABLE. EVEN THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS HAD NOT AFFECTED HIM MORE.

3. HE DECLARED GOU HAD NO NEW CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS ON FLY AND GOMIDE BUT THAT MLN'S LATEST COMMUNIQUE ENCLOSING LETTERS FROM BOTH MEN TO THEIR FAMILIES (REFTEL A) SEEMED TO INDICATE SOME POSSIBILITY THAT CAPTORS NOT PLANNING TO MURDER THEM. HE THOUGHT IT MUST BE EVIDENT TO TERRORISTS THAT THEY HAD MADE ENORMOUS BLUNDER IN MITRIONE'S DEATH BECAUSE THIS HAD UNIFIED URUGUAYAN PUBLIC IN OPPOSITION TO THEM. I NOTED THAT MLN'S LATEST COMMUNIQUE DIFFERED FROM COMMUNIQUE NO. 8, ISSUED BEFORE MITRIONE'S DEATH, IN THAT EARLIER ONE THREATENED ACTION AGAINST "FOREIGN DIPLOMATS" IF CAPTURED TERRORIST LEADERS WERE HARMED, WHILE NO. 10 OMITTED REFERENCE TO DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND DIRECTED THREAT TOWARD "AMERICAN ADVISORS". PEIRANO BELIEVED MLN MIGHT BE PLANNING TO "TRY" FLY AND GOMIDE, AND THEN RELEASE THEM BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS NO MORE THAN A HOPE.

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4. I ASKED PEIRANO WHETHER ANY RESULTS HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM GOU'S RANSOM EFFORTS. PEIRANO REPLIED NEGATIVELY, BUT SAID THESE WERE CONTINUING. HE INTENDED TO TALK TO VICE PRESIDENT SHORTLY. HE SAID GOU USING MONTEVIDEO JUDGE DIAZ ROMERO, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING INITIAL INTERROGATION OF SENDIC, AS ITS SECOND CHANNEL. B

5. I ASKED PEIRANO WHETHER HE THOUGHT POLICE PRESSURE WOULD BE KEPT UP WITH VIEW TOWARD ULTIMATELY DESTROYING CAPABILITY OF TERRORIST GROUPS TO COMMIT SUCH OUTRAGES. I SAID REACTION IN UNITED STATES, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC, HAD SEEMED QUITE UNDERSTANDING TOWARD GOU'S POINT OF VIEW AND ITS EFFORTS THUS FAR. BUT IF ANOTHER OUTRAGE OCCURRED IN, SAY, THREE MONTHS, I FELT CERTAIN THAT IN UNITED STATES, JUDGMENT OF WHETHER GOU HAD USED EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS WOULD BE MADE ON BASIS OF WHAT IT DOES FROM NOW FORWARD, RATHER THAN HOW IT REACTS TO NEW KIDNAPPING. THE IMPORTANT CONTINUING AIM OF GOU SHOULD BE TO DESTROY CAPACITY OF MLN TO REPEAT KIDNAPPINGS. PEIRANO SAID HE AGREED COMPLETELY AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT POLICE AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES INTENDED TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK WITHOUT LETUP. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED JUST BEFORE LEAVING MINISTRY TO COME TO MY OFFICE THAT POLICE HAD PICKED UP SIX MORE TUPAMARO SUSPECTS THIS MORNING.

6. ON PUBLIC REACTION TO EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS, PEIRANO ADMITTED THAT THERE USUALLY IS TENDENCY FOR THIS TO DIE DOWN AFTER THE EVENT, BUT SAID GOU INTENDED TO KEEP PUBLIC OPINION MOBILIZED AT HIGHEST LEVEL POSSIBLE. ONE PROBLEM IN THIS HAS BEEN THE ATTITUDE OF URUGUAYAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. HE NOTED THAT NO CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES (ASIDE FROM NUNCIO) WERE PRESENT AT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES YESTERDAY. HE FELT THAT THERE WERE TERRORIST SYMPATHIZERS, IF NOT MEMBERS, IN CHURCH AND SAID IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT THIS SITUATION STEMMED ULTIMATELY FROM PROBABLE INFILTRATION OF PRO-VIOLENCE SUBVERSIVE IDEAS DIRECTLY INTO VATICAN ITSELF. HE EMPHASIZED THIS HIS OWN OPINION, BUT REPEATED THAT IF LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH WISHED TO ASSIST EFFORT AGAINST TERRORISTS IT COULD REMOVE SOME OF HIGH RISK

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CLERGYMEN IN LATIN AMERICA WHO CURRENTLY PROTECTING OR ASSISTING TERRORIST ELEMENTS.

7. FINALLY REFERRING TO OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY ON PERSONNEL SECURITY (REFTEL B), HE SAID HE DID NOT AGREE GENERAL FRANCESE'S VIEW THAT USG SHOULD PICK UP COSTS FOR ANY CONTRACTED GUARDS. THOUGHT GOU SHOULD ITSELF TAKE CARE OF AS MANY AS POSSIBLE AND U.S. WOULD BE CALLED UPON ONLY TO SUPPLEMENT GOU'S OWN EFFORTS. I REPLIED THAT WE NOW AWAITING SPECIFIC DETAILS ON POLICE CAPABILITIES BUT THAT QUESTION OF PAYMENT FOR CONTRACT GUARDS COULD BE SETTLED LATER. I SAID THING UPPERMOST IN MY MIND NOW WAS TO ESTABLISH ADEQUATE SECURITY REGARDLESS OF WHO PAYS WHAT. FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED BUT THIS WAS DETAIL THAT WOULD QUICKLY FALL INTO PLACE WHEN THEIR RESOURCES AND OUR NEEDS WERE ASSESSED. ADAIR

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